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Current quarantine measures.

[Translated in this Bureau from the "Veröffentlichungen des Kaiserlichen Gesundheitsamtes," Berlin, April 20, 1898.]

PLAGUE.

BULGARIA.—According to official advices of April 4, passengers on vessels arriving from the Red Sea shall not leave the ports of Varna and Burgas without having first undergone rigid disinfection of all their baggage and effects. Persons arriving from Red Sea ports by land routes shall undergo medical inspection at Hebitchewo, their clothing and baggage shall be thoroughly disinfected. Such travelers shall not be allowed to enter Bulgaria at any points other than those named. The coast of the Red Sea, with the exception of Suez, is considered infected.

YELLOW FEVER.

URUGUAY.—By order of the National board of health, of March 16, vessels arriving from Rio de Janeiro or Santos, or such as have stopped at those ports, shall undergo a twenty-four hours' observation. Passengers whose destination is Montevideo shall undergo this observation at the quarantine island of Flores. On leaving the island, they shall receive a sanitary pass and again undergo observation on land for a period of five days. The effects of said passengers shall be disinfected on the island. Vessels which request free pratique at Montevideo shall be disinfected; likewise sailing vessels, the duration of whose voyage has been less than eight days. The latter shall remain under observation until the completion of the eight days' period. Vessels whose duration of voyage has exceeded eight days shall be given free pratique. Cargo and mail may be landed without delay. Vessels which arrive at Montevideo with yellow fever on board, or which have had yellow fever cases en route, shall be subject to special quarantine.

BRAZIL.

Sanitary reports from Rio de Janeiro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, *March 13, 1898.*

SIR: The statistical tables for last week are behindhand, and it is quite impossible to state how many deaths occurred during that period. They tell me that the difficulties will be done away with in a few days.

I can report that during the week, from April 2 to 8, 108 cases of yellow fever were declared and that 72 patients died, an increase of 5; also 1 case of smallpox was reported.

In regard to the general state of health, I have no information to give beyond what I mentioned in my former report.

It has been noticed, and not without reason, that the local physicians in their certificates of the causes of deaths use so many different terms for yellow fever instead of a common denomination. These several names of sicknesses are adopted in the official publications. Such names as "typhoicteroides," "typhoamarillo," "typho-Americano," "febre typhomalariae," etc., are identical with yellow fever, but they are declared as different kinds of fevers, "febres diversas." Also cases of

accesso and febre pernicioso are often yellow fever. Therefore, the official number of yellow fever cases is not exact, and is less than the reality.

The wish to know the true yellow fever germ and to find a profitable treatment has produced before Sanarelli's statements all kind of publications, all of which lack a sound basis. It is very probable that the prospect of a large reward which the Government might be induced to grant to the discoverers has increased the effort of the pretenders, so that an indecorous literary rival warfare has been started. As far as I know the question of the reward, only several members had the purpose of presenting their propositions to the Chamber of Deputies. A definite conference or resolution in Congress has never taken place. I am of opinion that one can reward a scientific discovery, but not that one should wish for money for the solution of a problem.

I should not like to mention it, if Dr. Felipe Caldas had not also taken the same commercial course in an open manner. Although the experiments of Dr. Caldas are without any rational basis, in my opinion, nevertheless he has understood how to obtain the interest of the Academia de Medicina. I believe in this instance that a good feeling for a fellow countryman prevailed rather than a scientific conviction. In consequence of the discussion in the academy, the director of the public health, Conselheiro, Prof. Dr. Nuno de Andrade has interested the Government in the experiments with a serum prepared by Dr. Caldas. They appointed a committee, which was to make experimental treatments with the serum in the yellow fever hospital. The committee contains some professors of the faculty of medicine. I have heard from a good source, privately, that the experiments gave very unfavorable results. Of 35 cases, 25 died. For the experiments were chosen such patients as were infected as short a time as possible. Although I have no sympathy with Dr. Caldas' serum, still I must acknowledge that in the yellow fever hospital, with the existing conditions, it is difficult to obtain a definite result. The value of the serum treatment depends on the fact of the patients being treated, solely in that manner, a short time after the beginning of the sickness. The patients who seek the hospital are already two, three, or more days ill, and, therefore, not in a condition to have the serum treatment applied.

This affair of Caldas' serum is merely an episode in the present situation of the medicine; it has received an official sanction, and, therefore, I feel obliged to refer to it.

Since last report, the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health of this office: April 9, schooner *Oceana*, British, for St. Lucia, West Indies; steamship *Hevelius*, Belgian, for New York; bark *Rose Innes*, American, for New York. April 13, bark *Avoca*, British, for Ship Island, Miss.; steamship *Amalfi*, German, for New York; bark *Julia Rollins*, American, for Baltimore.

Respectfully, yours,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,

Acting Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 6, 1898.

SIR: I am sorry that I can't send you the usual report for the last week, because of the same reason to which I referred in my letter of March 23, a kind of strike. The exact information can be obtained only after the service in the charge of the bureau of the charity hos-

pital, Santa Casa de Misericordia, accidentally interrupted, will be regulated.

From the newspapers, I can send you the following extract. About yellow fever, I have the notices from the authorities:

During the week ended April 1, inclusive, there were 426 deaths from all causes, an increase of 31; 25 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, an increase of 1; 10 deaths from beriberi, a decrease of 1; 40 deaths from fevers; 67 deaths from yellow fever, a decrease of 1; 86 cases of yellow fever, were reported to the authorities.

With regard to the general state of health, I have nothing special to report. A few showers have certainly reduced somewhat the temperature, and, although the days are still hot, the nights are slightly cooler. The number of diseases has comparatively altered little during the last week. Also in regard to yellow fever there is nothing particular to report.

Generally speaking, I would say that this year's summer, in comparison with former years, may be regarded as relatively more favorable with respect to sickness.

Since last report, the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health of this office: March 31, steamship *Severn*, British, for Baltimore, via Santos; steamship *Cabral*, British, for Baltimore; steamship *Uplands*, British, for St. Lucia, West Indies, and ship *Canada*, British, for Norfolk. April 1, steamship *Asiatic Prince*, British, for New York; steamship *Bellarden*, British, for New York, and steamship *Rosse*, British, for New Orleans. April 2, bark *Crown Prince*, Norwegian, for Sapelo, and ship *Latwija*, Russian, for Pensacola. April 5, steamship *Deramore*, British, for St. Lucia, West Indies. April 6, steamship, *Blue Star*, British, for St. Lucia, West Indies.

Respectfully, yours,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,

Acting Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

CHINA.

Plague in Hongkong.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,

Canton, China, March 28, 1898.

SIR: I have the honor to forward herewith to your department, an abstract from the report on the outbreak of bubonic plague in Hongkong, which has been declared an infected port, and I deem it my duty to your department to furnish you with the latest information as contained in to day's issue of The Daily Press of Hongkong.

I shall send by the next mail a further and more detailed report on the sanitary condition of this consular district.

I have the honor to remain, sir, your obedient servant,

EDWARD BEDLOE,

United States Consul.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.